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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2012

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■ SAVING LIVES

Safety 101 for surfers

DAVE JOHNSON
 Tribune Staff

PORT COLBORNE — As waves built at Pleasant Beach, surfboards sat unused atop vehicles sitting outside a lodge at the end of Pleasant Beach Rd.

One could sense the 18 surfers sitting inside were itching to get out and take on the Lake Erie waves, but they waited patiently inside.

The surfers, from across Niagara, Toronto and western New York, were at the lodge to take part in a surfers rescue course.

"We had hands-on training ... St. John Ambulance taught us the latest CPR techniques," said George Holmes, of Niagara-on-the-Lake Surf Club, who put on the day with the help of Surf Ontario, a Toronto-based surf shop, and its owner Mike Sandusky.

see RESCUE TRAINING | page 2

■ RIDING THE WAVES...AND WIND



A kite surfer gets some air off of a wave on Saturday at Pleasant Beach. Numerous kite surfers, windsurfers and surfers hit the north shore of Lake Erie as the wind created big swells for surfers and the right conditions for the wind and kite surfers.

DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

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■ RESCUE TRAINING

Making Lake Erie surfing safer

FROM PAGE 1

St. John Ambulance representatives volunteered Sunday to speak about the effects of hypothermia and drowning.

After lunch, an accredited lifeguard showed surfers how to use their boards as life-saving devices.

The lifeguard, Kurt Holmes of Buffalo, spoke to surfers about how to deal with people in trouble in the water.

In drowning situations, people may panic and try and grab hold of a rescuer, putting both in greater danger.

If a rescuer is grabbed by a person in trouble, Holmes said the rescuer may have to quickly submerge themselves and that person underwater.

"Those people don't want to be underwater ... they'll let go of you."

Holmes showed various ways — rolls, spins and underwater somersaults — to gain control of a person that could be panicking in the water.

Many of the techniques shown could be used by surfers without their boards.

"If you didn't have your board, you could tow a person in to shore. It would work best on a passive victim."

Holmes also showed ways of using surfboards to gain control as well.

While there was a demonstration using a board

inside, a number of the surfers took the waters to practise the techniques.

Waves coming in at Pleasant Beach were about a metre tall and growing, said Holmes, a finish carpenter when he's not on waves.

Because of the growing wave conditions, surfers moved farther west down the beach, just offshore of Sheraton shores. The waves were smaller there and the beach more protected, making it easier to conduct training.

"We usually surf in the worst conditions. If you look at charts of drownings on Lake Erie, most happen in 4-1/2- to 5-1/2-foot waves," said Holmes.

People have drowned in conditions similar to what the surfers were out in on Sunday, just up from the beach, where they were training.

"We may be able to help people that are in trouble," said Holmes.

The training, Holmes said, could help surfers themselves, especially new surfers who may not know rip currents and shore breaks at various beaches they surf.

As soon as the training was done, Holmes and a number of the surfers grabbed their boards and headed right back out to get in a session before the waves died off.

dave.johnson@sunmedia.ca



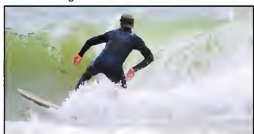
DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Chantal Belisle, right, uses a technique to flip George Holmes on a surfboard during a rescue course for surfers.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Kurt Holmes, a lifeguard trainer, right, shows surfers how to get a person, in this case Welland's Craig Duncan, on to a surfboard.



DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

George Holmes can't resist surfing a wave during a rescue training course for surfers.

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portraits

■ **ADDITIONS:** Council puts items back in for park

skatepark costs soar

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —Port Colborne is getting its nautical-themed skatepark and BMX park.

Council awarded the park construction contract to Toronto-based Patterned Concrete, but it wasn't all smooth sailing.

Several councillors raised concerns when the project's price tag came in well over the \$700,000 initially budgeted.

"I'm in favour of the park, but not to the tune of \$807,377," said Ward 3 Coun. Bea Kenney, referencing the total cost to construct the park design option recommended by staff.

"I want this, but we have to be reasonable."

When the park design was initially approved by council in March, the estimated cost was \$700,000.

Following the approval, a geotechnical investigation was conducted at Lock 8 Park, where the facility will be located, and it was determined there is an additional cost of about \$80,000 to dig to the bedrock on site and create a proper foundation.

The cost also rose after the city received five tenders for the project, all higher than the initial \$700,000 estimate, said community services manager Gary Makins. Staff recommended the lowest tender, offered by Patterned Concrete.

To help lower the cost of the project, staff recommended a build option that saw the wave track, colour and the concrete and sun shelter removed.

This brought the cost from \$875,902 for the full build to \$807,377.

"The bottom line is kids have waited at least 15 years for this," said Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet, who encouraged council to support the construction of the sporting facility.

"I believe we somehow need to get that extra money to build this thing and build it right the first time."

Looking at the city's existing facilities, there are elements that could have been included at the time of construction that were skipped to save costs. Those efficiencies at the time have cost the city in the long run, he said, with changes needed to be made to facilities after the fact.

"I believe if we do this correctly, we'll have one of the best facilities in the peninsula," Doucet said, adding he thinks it will also be one of the most visited parks in Niagara.

Both children and adults, he said, are "chomping at the bit" waiting for the park to be built so they can give it a try.

The city's special events co-ordinator Gina Murdoch knows that to be fact.

she's been receiving calls from people questioning when the unique nautical-themed park will be open so they can take a trip to the area and test it out.

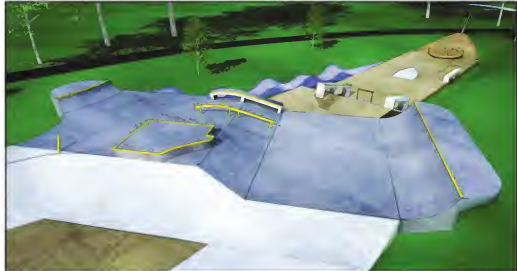
Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais was also in favour of moving forward with the park, despite the cost.

"I know it's a lot of money to spend, but I think our kids are worth it," she said.

"If we can find the money to take risks for other things we can find the money to take risks for our kids."

Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott was in favour of building the park, but admit he was "shocked" when he saw the increase to the bill. He felt the initial budget offered enough funding to support the project.

He questioned whether Lock 8 Park would have been crossed off the list as a location the city known the extra cost of building there, staff did not have the authority to move forward with the geotechnical investigation until the design was approved.



Landing: has worked in partnership with Port Colborne's mayor's youth advisory council and local skateboarders and BMX riders to design this nautical-themed skatepark to be built at Lock 8 Park.

"I want to build the skate park," Elliott said, "but sometimes you need to build within a limit and stay within the limit."

Whether any other sites would be suitable for the project could not be determined without further geotechnical studies being done at a cost of \$4,000 a piece, said Port Colborne's manager of projects and design Chris Lee.

The same problems would likely be found at several locations in the city given that Port Colborne lies mainly on bedrock, added Doucet.

There are opportunities to "work down" the price "without jeopardizing the structure or warranty of the structure," said chief administrative officer Bob Heil.

"We believe we may be able to negotiate some cost savings," he said, but the project will still come in over the initial budget.

Heil said there may be an

opportunity for the city to partner with a marine company, allowing naming rights to the ship that makes up the design.

Port Colborne's mayor's youth advisory council, which helped to design the facility, is also working on a plan to fundraise \$70,000 for the build — 10% of the initial budget, Doucet said.

The group is working on four different fundraising initiatives including partnering with Pedal Bicycle shop to raffie off a bike, with the winning ticket drawn at the park's opening hosting a movie night at Nickel Beach on July 21, partnering with local businesses who will host a \$2 donation campaign at their checkouts; and hosting a car wash sometime this summer.

several funding commitments, including \$1,000 from the Port Colborne Firefighters association, have already been made.

Bodner put forth an amendment to see the colour again included in the design at a cost of \$21,000, including the opportunity for a sponsor marine company to choose colours to suit their brand.

Desmarais put forth an additional amendment to see the wave track also included at a cost of \$18,000.

The addition of the wave track and coloured concrete brought the total cost to \$846,377.

Both amendments were approved after Badawey voted in favour and broke two tied votes cast by council.

Port Colborne is being rebuilt for young families, Badawey said, and the park is another step in transforming the city into a "vibrant, active community."

"We're adding to the inventory of reasons why people come to Niagara's south coast."

Elliott called for a recorded vote on the amended motion during the council portion of the evening.

In favour were Badawey, Bodner, Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters, Desmarais, Doucet and Ward 1 Coun. Bill Steele.

Opposed were Ward 3 Coun. Frank Dunch, Elliott and Kenney.

Staff recommended the funds be debentured over 30 years, 10 years longer than when the project's budget was initially proposed.

Interest on the project will be about \$200,000 over the additional 10 years, said Peter Senese, the city's director of community and corporate services.

The annual cost for the debenture to the tax levy is about \$49,000, or a 0.37% increase, he added.

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ourview

McGuinty chooses odd targets

It's a lot of fun watching Premier Dad using his newfound spine.

Nobody knows if he found it lying around the office at Queen's Park, or finally just grew it all by himself. It's not as if he's the leader of the Dalton Gang was totally without a spine in the past.

He just didn't use it unless he could see his opponents were so weak that there was little to no chance they'd stand their ground. In the past, he flexed his spine against pit bulls, cigarettes when smoked in cars with young fry present, and open shelving for tobacco.

But none of these objects cast a vote and the humans most affected by the government moving against them were spread throughout so many ridings, they posed little threat to the Liberal brand come election time.

McGuinty used the same calculation, but missed the target badly, when he stood tall and strong against rural Ontarians who opposed the development of wind factories in their communities.

That opposition was more organized and widespread that the slickers at Queen's Park had figured and the move cost the premier his rural seats in the last election.

McGuinty talked about using his spine a few times in the past but wimped out and ran away when he faced real opposition. The memorable example was the idea back around 2010 of a voluntary wage freeze for civil servants.

When they objected, his response was, "Never mind, here's a big raise instead."

Now that the premier has found his spine he is using it in strange ways, such as attacking doctors and the Catholic separate school system, which is supported by provincial funds.

First he is taking his battle against ever-escalating health costs to the front door of doctors' offices across the province.

Nobody would doubt there are issues with the way doctors are paid in this province, but flexing your muscles and straightening your spine hardly seems the way to deal with them.

And then there's the premier's other new enemy, the Catholic school system and with it the Catholic church.

McGuinty has stood tall and told those folks that anti-homophobia support groups in Catholic schools can be called "gry" clubs if the members so desire.

On the surface it seems like a strange issue to show some guts about, but admittedly it's complicated being related to bullying and all.

It just seems weird that the two groups the premier decided to tackle are viewed by folks as miracle workers. Many doctors are God-like to their patients and the Catholic church is an institution that continues to be in the miracles business.

With his record it's more likely he'll try to fix the financial woes by buying shares in Facebook.

I'VE BEEN THINKING

REV. THOMAS ARTHUR
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

King died a few weeks ago. King was one of our cockatiels. We tried to figure out just how old he was. Our best educated guess is that he bought him some time late in 1991 or early 1992. So we figure he was over 20 years old, maybe approaching 21. That's well at or past the upper end of a cockatiel's normal lifespan. We knew he was old. He hadn't flown for a long time. Occasionally he'd fall off his perch. But he was still his regular old self, the King we'd come to know over the span of 20 years.

When King was young, as soon as he heard us pour the popcorn kernels into the popper he'd get excited. He knew by that sound that he'd soon get to join us for a snack. His cage-mate in his early years was Queenie who was about the same age as King but died a few years ago. We could tell that King was lonely but we weren't sure we wanted to buy another bird. Then, out of the blue, at just the right time, our kids' Sunday School teacher offered us another cockatiel named Queenie. She was a younger bird and seemed to revitalize King. Maybe having a young 'chick' around made him feel younger too.

Now Queenie is a bird who likes to fly. And George likes me. She'll hear my voice and find me just about anywhere in the house. That didn't sit too well with King. I don't think he was jealous of me, but he missed his George whenever she was out of his sight. As I said, in his old age he didn't fly anymore so he would call with a loud piercing shriek until she returned to their cage.

King is gone. I don't know if George

misses him, but she sure spends a lot more time with the humans than she did when he was alive. He's been gone for nearly two months but it still looks like something's missing when we walk by the cage and there's only one bird in it.

This spring we welcomed some surprise visitors in our backyard. A family of robins has nested in the rose bush that climbs up the wall behind our garage. It's right in a place where we frequently walk past so we often scare mom or dad off their nest. We pecked inside and saw four pale blue eggs. Those eggs hatched and it's been amazing to watch mom and dad making countless and tireless trips back and forth to the lawn, the gardens, wherever they had to go to find food for their young ones.

The little birds have been growing right in front of our eyes. At first you could barely see the open beaks pecking above the edge of the nest when a parent came with worm in beak. In no time there were fuzzy little heads stretching up and making squeaky little peeps whenever the food came. The feathers have gotten darker and their voices have gotten stronger. Before long I'm sure they'll be making light and finding their own food.

Our kids don't seem nearly as impressed or amazed at the goings on behind the garage as my wife and I are. We sit in the yard and just watch as Mr. and Mrs. Robin make their numerous trips to the nest with food, seeing those greedy little mouths stretch up to be fed. It's like God sent us this show, these miracles of nature, these adorable baby birds, just after we had to say goodbye to the old man who spent those twenty years with us.

God's creation truly is a wonder and a miracle. The creation story tells us that

on 'day five' God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky" (Genesis 1:20). At the end of 'day six' the Bible tells us that "God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good" (Genesis 1:31). When I remember King and see Mr. and Mrs. Robin and their four youngsters I'm reminded of how "very good" God's creation is. But we don't have to look very far to see how we mess up the "very good" that God has given to us.

We pray, every Sunday in church, for God's good creation. The kinds of things we say include:

"Awaken in us a profound commitment to care for the earth, that your glory may be revealed in lakes and rivers, mountains and valleys, plants and animals."

"Cover all of creation with your Spirit. Spark renewal in areas that have been damaged or destroyed, and make life spring forth in waters, fields, and forests." "You have given the gift of food in your creation. Bless the labour of farmers and gardeners who till soil and spread seed. Raise up plants that will feed all humankind!"

"Inspire all creation to join in the unending song of praise for the great things you do. Reveal your majesty in the wonders of creation. Open us to your goodness."

I thank God for King and for the 20 plus years he spent with us. I thank God for Mr. and Mrs. Robin and their four new little ones. I thank God for springtime and the new birth we see all around us in creation. May we all observe and enjoy God's good gifts and care for them so that future generations of humans and robins and all of God's creatures can enjoy many more springtimes to come on this earth.

readers'views

Is Port spoiled? You bet!

Perhaps before new residents criticize our Port Colborne General Hospital and think we are spoiled, we should share the history.

Fortunately for us, years ago, the city fathers and some astute businessmen with names such as like Marsh and Miser (to name only two) with the help of local merchants and industry had the foresight to initiate the building of our hospital.

Men and women at Inco, for instance, had money deducted from their pay cheques to contribute to the building

fund and men on their day off willingly donated their time and trade skills to work on the construction.

Our residents were concerned at tonsils being removed on the kitchen tables and babies born in bedrooms with and without midwives and only a trolley available to get to Welland at certain hours.

Unfortunately, when we were forced to go with the Niagara Health System, we found that it was not long before we were rap of equipment, services, and public trust.

Now is there emotion and passion? you bet!

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are we spoiled? you bet

We hope you and your family have the good fortune to use PCGH facilities like the Plaza-Jackson Mammary Unit, as just this past Sunday more than 200 women at the "Table Toppers" raised several thousand dollars for equipment, gowns, training, etc. with the help of local merchants and attendees that support a worthwhile endeavor.

Again I ask, are we spoiled? you bet!

Pat Hockings Breast Cancer Survivor
Port Colborne

see LETTERS | page 5

LETTERS

Readers weigh in on ATVs, Port hospital

FROM PAGE 4 Time and a place for ATVs

So Tracy-Lynn Bell-Volpato, president of the Quad Niagara ATV Club wants to open an ATV trail through Wainfleet Township. she states that club members believe in safe, responsible riding and respecting landowners' rights.

The way I see it riding an ATV, or any other recreational vehicle on land that does not belong to the operator, is neither responsible or respectful.

she goes on to say the club would have warrants to ensure riders were following proper etiquette—what is considered proper etiquette? Is it tearing through rural areas, ripping up real estate, terrorizing wildlife, and waking people in the middle of the night while on a mid-night ride?

Is it travelling from your home in an urban area, along municipal streets, to the beginning of the trail?

I'm sure you are not going to trailer your ATV to the trail area.

Would these warrants monitor the behaviour of riders 24 hours a day, seven days a week? I doubt it.

she goes on to say that the irresponsible behaviour being demonstrated by "those types," could be eliminated through a legal trail system and education. does she really believe that? a trail system will only encourage more of that behaviour, and give riders easy access to even more private property.

It is my understanding there is property in Niagara Falls, owned by an ATV club, and that is where they rip up the real estate. If the Niagara ATV club wants a place to ride, they should buy a piece of property well away from other residents, and tear it up.

There are only three places for ATVs—in your garage, on your trailer, or on your property, anywhere else is neither responsible or respectful.

ATVs were originally designed for people working

in remote areas, or areas of farms that were not previously accessible to normal size vehicles.

They were never intended for recreational use. The use of ATVs, snowmobiles and dirt bikes for recreation, has become a nuisance for people living in suburban and rural areas, and should be stopped.

Like everything else, there is a time and a place, and someone else's property is not the place.

Jim Ray
Port Colborne

Port Colborne hospital needed

I agree with Elyse Wallington's recent letter about hospital restructuring, despite the opposing view presented by J. Everett (The Tribune, May 29). My grandparents

helped pay for Port Colborne hospital as did many hardworking folks who saw the need for a local hospital rather than having to take their loved ones lives into their hands and drive to Welland or other places in the Niagara region.

you say when you moved here you were surprised to see Port Colborne thriving while your former home town of Dundas' hospital didn't one, sour grapes after almost 50 years?

Had Mike Harris' Conservatives had their way Port Colborne hospital would have closed in '97. Luckily the efforts of former mayor Bob sarcinico and current mayor Vance Badway saved it, along with countless other hardworking

people. didn't see a lot of concern from our then MPP or the mayors of the surrounding areas nor do I see much now.

I covered the Port Colborne hospital board for The Tribune from the mid-'80s until it was eaten up by the NHs. PCGH ran in the black up until then and even managed to donate some medical equipment to developing countries through the auspices of the late Ernie Marsh.

as a person with who is legally blind and with numerous other health problems I have no way of getting to a hospital after hours. The Red Cross Transit program only works regular business hours, not before 8:30 a.m. and not after 6 p.m. I know and they require you

bring someone with you as the drivers just offload you. If I had someone to drive me, why would I need the Red Cross transit in the first place?

ambulances for persons with disabilities or those with limited incomes are too expensive to pay for as are taxi services, and regional and local transit doesn't run weekends or before 8 a.m. or after 6 in Port Colborne. so what is someone without family to do?

I love my friends dearly but I'm not going to call them during the middle of the night if I have a kidney stone or experience symptoms of a heart attack or stroke or god knows what else.

Liz Seger
Port Colborne

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■ FUN IN THE SUN DONATION



SPECIAL TO InPort News

The Kiwanis of Welland made a donation for the purchasing of sport equipment and craft items for the Fun in the Sun playground program offered by Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet. Rita Smith, left, Community Living's youth programs co-ordinator, accepts a cheque to help with the program from David Irwin, Kiwanis of Welland treasurer. The program runs this summer in the East Village Victoria Playground.



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■ COLUMN

Life gets better after high school

For some, high school is a four year period filled with parties (without alcohol, of course), football games, and popularity.

But for others it's about zits, bad hair days, and just trying to fit in. No matter who you hangout with or what kind of clothes you wear, high school is challenging for everyone.

“High school is supposed to be difficult, because you don't learn life lessons without struggle.”

Fortunately, there's good news for you—it doesn't last forever.

It may seem like a lifetime, but think about it like this: Out of a potential 80, 90 or even 100 years that you may live, only four of those years are spent in high school.

Robert Frost once said, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: It goes on." Whatever it is about high school that makes your life harder, know that these hurdles won't be there forever. And by the way, whoever said that high school is "the best years of a person's



Michelle Pressé
CANADIAN GIRL/ITALIAN LIVING

life" never moved onto bigger and better things.

Puberty, calculus homework and not being a part of the "in" crowd may suck, but it's not the end of the world. In fact, it's just the beginning.

You can be sad do whatever you want, and there's a great big world that goes far beyond the walls of your high school that is waiting to see what you have to offer.

While you're in this chapter of your life, make the most of it. And remember that it's just that: a chapter. The sky will not fall if you get detention for texting in class (even if it really was your mom). If you don't ace every test, or don't become the Prom King or Queen.

High school is supposed to be difficult, because you don't learn life lessons without struggle. You also don't learn the meaning of true friendship or love without being stepped on a few times.

Take it from someone who has made it to the other side—life gets better after high school.

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■ **VISIT:** American firm and school look at what local school is doing

Port High leads the way with skilled workers

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —Port High may hold the solution to skilled worker shortages in new york.

Companies like Hebelor corp. of Buffalo can't find enough tradespeople to fill their manufacturing plants, but its Canadian operation, I. Oskam steel Fabricators Ltd. In Port Colborne hasn't had a problem. Its even grown by about 50% in the last three years. Oskam's operations and plant manager Kevin Langenack attributes some of the success to Port Colborne High school's specialist high skills major technology programs.

"When these kids come to us already having first-aid training, WHMIS and other stuff, it saves us so much time because we don't have to send them out for training or put them in a corner doing a job that they can't really do much so they don't get hurt. We can put them straight to work," he said.

To find out why these programs help Oskam and hopefully replicate the programs in New York, Hebelor sent 10 employees from the company and the Charter School for Applied Technology (CSAT) to Port High last week to tour facilities, meet students and see what kind of work the students can do.

School principal Nigel Evans, co-op teacher Shawn Coers, and welding teacher Vic Barker, took the group through the state-of-the-art technology wing and the student-run cafeteria to show the group more than technological trades benefit from high skills majors programs.

They also highlighted the skills competition and the schools award-winning students like Daniel Dressel, who won a gold medal for welding at last year's skills competition.

"We take it really seriously, we take all aspects of it seriously. It's kind of special, we are privileged to have the staff,

community and facility to teach hands-on," Evans said.

Peter Coleman, business development manager at Hebelor, said the tour and facilities were fabulous, but at many points along the tour he questioned how the school was able to afford the programs and materials, although he knew the answer for Port High — public funding.

"It's what we need," he said of the high skills major program. "We have available capacity, but we can't find skilled tradespeople to fill positions and companies end up stealing workers from each other."

Efrain Martinez, superintendent at CSAT, said he really liked how the government stepped up and put money into schools for trades because they have huge problems finding enough workers.

"Stealing other companies' tradespeople happens so often, but it wouldn't if we implemented this, it would help a lot."



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Rob Mikulec, vice-president of the board of directors for the Charter School for Applied Technologies in Buffalo, left, takes a look at the practical welding test students at Port Colborne High School must complete to receive their welding certification with welding teacher Vic Barker.

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■ STUNT BIKER OFFERS INSPIRATIONAL WORDS



SPECIAL TO InPort News

World-renowned stunt biker Trevor Bodoth thrilled families at St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School recently with his gravity-defying tricks and jumps. Bodoth shared his mantra, "Life is the most important talent show you'll ever be in. Always give 100%," to motivate students, parents and staff alike. The Catholic school council offered free draws, facepainting, popcorn, and cotton candy to round out the Family BBQ evening with Bodoth. The Parents Reaching Out initiative was a huge success. From left are Bodoth, Max Ruber, Faith Ruber, Rebecka Mayr, and Patrick Mayr.

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BROCHURES
FOR SENIORS

PORT COLBORNE —The city's seniors advisory council has created a new brochure to inform Port Colborne's seniors of the services available to them.

The brochure will be available at

various locations throughout the city including the Port Colborne Public Library and Friends Over 55 Centre, and will be distributed by groups such as Meals on Wheels.

It's also available online by visiting www.portcolborne.ca/page/committee_seniors_advisory.

PUBLIC MEETING

PORT COLBORNE—Humberstone speedway wants to be a good neighbour.

The Port Colborne racetrack is hosting an informal gathering to inform residents in the immediate area about its upcoming events.

This racing season will include more events than in the past. Ward 4 Coun. Barbara Butters said, adding the speedway wants to address any issues that may be problematic, such as noise.

The meeting will be held June 7 at 7 p.m. on the second floor of Humberstone speedway at 1716 Hwy. 3.



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■ **HARBOUR MASTERS BUILDING:** New use for building?

Hub of information downtown

MARYANNE FIRTH
InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE —The harbour master's building on West St. may soon be a hub —albeit a tiny one —for tourist information in the lake-side city.

The downtown business

improvement area is interested in using the north side of small structure as an information hot spot for visitors in the city's downtown.

But the BIA isn't the only group looking to make use of the facility.

The south side of the building is currently rented

by Cooper Marine and the Corporation of Professional Great Lakes Pilots has eyes on the facility's north side.

Council passed a motion recently that will see the three organizations come together to work out an agreement for the building that will meet all of their

needs.

While the BIA hopes to use the building for tourism, it will be used by Great Lakes pilots as shelter for pilots waiting for ships.

Cooper Marine uses the south side for its pilot boat operators, who shuttle the Great Lakes pilots from Port

Colborne to the ships in Lake Erie.

The concept for collaboration was brought forward by Mayor Vance Badawey, who believed an opportunity existed for the groups to partner together.

see **TOURISM HUB** | page 11



Badawey



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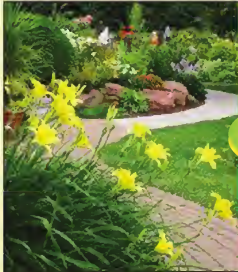
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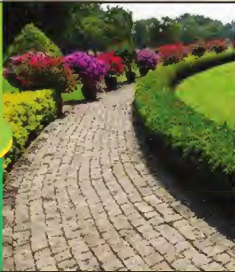


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■ TOURISM HUB

Volunteer information reps will fill roles

FROM PAGE 10

Though a schedule has yet to be determined, the building would be manned by the BIA during key tourism hours, potentially three to four hours a day from Thursday to Sunday, said Ward 1 Coun. Dave Elliott,

who sits on the BIA board. Included at the site, he said, will be brochures, fliers and maps to inform visitors of the sites and amenities in the area. While attendants are there to hand out information, the building's washroom facilities will also be made available to the public,

he added.

Board chair Bob Porter, who called the potential partnership a "great idea," said the BIA is looking into the potential of having volunteers available to run the facility.

An separate ambassador program is in the works that

will eventually see volunteers taking on the role of tourist information reps, said Ward 2 Coun. Angie Desmarais, but that won't be for some time.

"It takes time to develop the first load of ambassadors," she said, adding the program will be presented to

council in the near future.

Port Colborne's manager of community services Gary Makin will sit down with the three groups to help them work out an agreement for the harbour master building. That agreement will then come before council for approval.



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■ **NEW BUSINESS:** C.J. Perogies open downtown

Word of mouth is good for business

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE
—Cheryl Sandluck made perogies and cabbage rolls for her family for years.

And she and husband Jack always talked about opening their own place to sell them.
“We always had people tell us we should,” Cheryl said, of C.J. Perogies.

The couple thought about opening a place up north, near where they used to cottage, but the timing wasn't right.
“I had to come down here

and take care of my mother ... we sold our home in Toronto and moved to Port Colborne,” said Cheryl.
Once her mother was better, Cheryl and Jack

found they didn't have much to do.
“I was so bored and I had to do something before I went crazy,” she said.
So the couple decided to

go ahead and starting selling their homemade wares, but finding a location was something they needed to do.
see C.J. PEROGIES | page 13

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DAVE JOHNSON Staff Photo

Cheryl and Jack Sandluck show some perogies the couple made for their business, C.J. Perogies at 47 Princess St. in Port Colborne. The business has been open for six weeks now and word of mouth is helping to bring in new customers.



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■ **C.J. PEROGIES**

Homemade feasts

FROM PAGE 12

Since moving to Port Colborne, four years ago, she always noticed the small shack on Princess St., just beside Super Mario's Pizza. She told her husband that if the building ever came up for rent, she'd look at it.

"I finally said 'Let's go for it,' she said. Despite their lack of business experience, Cheryl worked for a school board and Jack worked in the health field, the two decided to give it a shot. They did some research and found there was no one else doing what they planned to do, so they leased the building.

Seven weeks ago they opened the doors and business, Cheryl said, is slowly but surely building.

"It's starting to catch on ... word of mouth is really helping. People have

been saying some really nice things," she said.

The two decided to try and keep the whole business as local as they could and buy supplies from local business.

The take-out business, at 47 Princess St., is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday's from noon to 4 p.m.

"I'm in here at 6 or 6:30 a.m. making perogies and cabbage rolls. I'm here until about 3 p.m., or sometimes all day," said Jack.

"He makes between 250 to 300 perogies a day," said Cheryl.

While they do take-out, the couple have done lunches, banquets and parties.

C.J. Perogies can be reached at 289-836-9447.

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PREPARATIONS:

1. In a 9" x 13" pan, line the bottom with graham crackers, using about 1/4 of them, breaking some in half to cover pan fully. Set aside.

2. Cut them (these crackers) in a small bowl in a second small bowl, which together the eggs and yolks. Set aside. In a deep, heavy saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat, and in the sugar bowl. Stir the half and half cream, and then the cream over medium heat until bubbles form around the edges of the sugar. Do not let it boil. When the half and half mixture is hot, turn off the heat. Pour a half of the hot half and half mixture into the bowl holding the crumbs.

When vigorously to combine. The mixture should come together smoothly, no lumps. If there are any lumps, add a little more liquid to what they are. Pour the combined mixture into the buttery sugar bowl (which happened to combine). Pour the egg mixture into the pan, over medium heat. Stir continuously and vigorously, working up from bottom of pot. Continue whisking for about 5 minutes, until the mixture thickens and starts to boil. Large bubbles should rise to the surface. Turn off the heat and stir in the vanilla. Spread one third of the pudding over the graham crackers, repeat this 2 more times. Making three layers, then a final layer of graham crackers Set aside.

3. Frosting: Melt the butter & cocoa powder together in sauce pan. Bring to a simmer over medium heat. Let bubble for 1 minute. Reduce to a low, and let it simmer 1 hour. Remove from heat & beat in sugar with hand mixer or whisk. When mixture is smooth, mix in vanilla. While the frosting is in hot bowl, pour over top of graham crackers. Smooth with back of spoon. In hot water cover with aluminum foil. Do not let it boil. Leave the top of dessert in it. Full weight is frosting. Refrigerate in a minimum of 4 hours, or up to 2 days before slicing.

INGREDIENTS

- 20 oz. graham crackers, (about 4 sleeves)

CUSTARD:

- 2 tbsp. Cornstarch
- 2 eggs
- 3 egg yolks
- 5 tbsp. unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup sugar 1/2 tsp. Salt
- 4 cups half & half creamer
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract

CHOCOLATE FROSTING:

- 1/4 cup unsalted butter
- 1/4 cup Unsweetened Cocoa Powder
- 1/4 cups cup milk
- 2 cups confectioner or icing sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract



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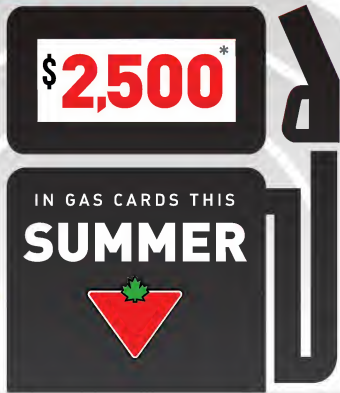
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■ **SHARING:** MPP working with MP in office

MPP opens satellite office

InPort News Staff

PORT COLBORNE — Accessing the riding's member of the legislature just got easier in Port Colborne.

Welland MPP Cindy Forster opened a satellite office in the lakeside city last week in the Port Cares building at 92 Charlotte St.

"A lot of people who require our services can't get to

Welland and the regional bus service doesn't connect with Port Colborne," she said. Forster and her staff will spend Monday and Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in



Forster

the office.

She will split the week with Welland MP Malcolm Allen and his staff, who already operate in the building Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8:40 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

"It's always wonderful to have a partner," he said. "The exciting thing about both federal and provincial representatives being NDP is that our operation is seamless. People

don't have to worry about coming to me with a provincial issue or vice versa. Our staff work seamlessly back and forth to get things done."

The office helps people get birth certificates, driver's license issues, family and children services, community legal services and many other problems residents may have.

In order to properly staff the offices with budget cuts

the Welland office will now be closed on Fridays.

Mayor Vance Badaway was excited to welcome Forster to the city and wanted to her to know the city's doors are always open for collaboration to help residents solve problems.

"This corner is becoming the service corner," he said. "It's literally a one-stop shop for residents to have their needs addressed."

SPOTLIGHT on service



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■ SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE



Andrew Watts, right, past commander of Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (Pocomar) unit watches as the Coast Guard auxiliary unit's main vessel is lowered into the water a couple of weeks ago at Sugarloaf Harbour Marina.

SPECIAL TO InPort News

Both of Port Colborne Marine Auxiliary Rescue (Pocomar) Unit's search and rescue vessels took part in the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary Search and Rescue Exercise recently. The Canadian Coast Guard vessel Cape Lampton, seen here, sailed down to Port Colborne from Port Dover to conduct the exercise. The all-volunteer Pocomar crews were thoroughly tested as they carried out various SAR scenarios out on Lake Erie. Also taking part were Dirt Water Fox, an auxiliary unit based on the Niagara River, and Sandman, also based at Port Colborne.



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■ WIGS FOR KIDS DONATION



Supplied Photo

Michelle Richard, of Michelle's House, cuts Austin Lacroix's hair at the first annual Wigs for Kids Cut-a-thon and Charity BBQ held recently. Lacroix, 11, grow his hair for nearly two years to donate to children less fortunate. All Proceeds went to A Childs Voice Foundation, Angel Hair for Kids Program, which is a Canadian-based charity that helps children who have suffered hair loss due to medical conditions and/or treatments. Austin has participated in several other charity fundraisers they include: Terry Fox Run and CIBC Run for the Cure. He was nominated to represent his school for the Rick Hansen 25th Anniversary Man in Motion Relay and has volunteered at his school for the past three years at the Breakfast Club. He's currently collecting pop cans and will donate the money obtained to Help-A-Child-Smile.

■ RETIREMENT RECOGNIZED



MARYANNE FIRTH Staff Photo

Port Colborne recognized the retirement of its chief building official Ernie Cronier, left, during the May 28 city council meeting. Cronier, who was with the city for the past four years, received a plaque and framed photo of the canal from Mayor Vasey Badawey, right, on behalf of the city. Upon his retirement, Cronier will be replaced by a new hire, Lyle Merritt, who comes to the city from a job with the Town of Peilham.

The Healthy Cupboard NEW Organic Product for 2012

GROW HEALTHY

IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THE SOIL, EVERYWHERE, IS MISSING MINERALS, BUT NOW THERE'S A NEW ORGANIC PRODUCT THAT SOLVES THIS BIG PROBLEM, AND PRODUCES BIGGER RESULTS!

Story by: Lorraine

If you're like me, I like to grow vegetables with little maintenance. My husband is a farmer so we often debate about how to take care of our indoor plants and vegetable garden.

What both my husband and I agree on is an amazing new product called Iron Earth.

Iron Earth is highly compressed, natural, organic, mineral-shale. This rich plant remains will give your soil a concentrated source of naturally occurring nutrients. By adding Iron Earth to your garden soil and planter pots you're giving the nutrients necessary for excellent soil conditions and optimal plant growth.

"A group of growing experts sought out a raw soil enhancement material that was all the ideal elements for optimal plant growth.

Their research lead them to review and test a range of samples from various locations and unanimously they selected the product known today as Iron Earth. This team is amazed at the results Iron Earth brings to all vegetable plants, flowers, lawns and trees and more." stated Iron Earth's Retail Sales Manager Murray Cheesman. In our backyard we had plenty of access to mature and compost we regularly added to our garden. We believe these worked by adding nutrients and ingredients to the soil, but the difference we saw with Iron Earth was truly remarkable!

Our first experiment was with basil leaf lettuce. Here's what we did...

The Basil Leaf Lettuce Experiment:

First we bought 8 equally-sized basil leaf lettuce plants from a local greenhouse. We split the plants into two groups of four, and we were able to switch the pot colours at the greenhouse so we had four red pots and four green pots for our plants to help distinguish the plants with the Iron Earth and plants without.

Next, we used a water application with the plants. We added 1 scoop of Iron Earth (the bag comes with a 1 ounce yellow scoop inside) and we used an empty 500-ml water bottle. We added the

full scoop of Iron Earth by using a small funnel, into the water bottle. Then we added water and shook it all together. Then we poured the contents into the four basil leaf lettuce plants with the green pots only. And water to the red pots.

This photo shows how Iron Earth helped the (green potted) plant grow, it shows a side-by-side comparison.

Its good to know a product like Iron Earth exists today. It's clear to see how lots of minerals can positively impact the growth of a plant. When it comes to my family's health I want them to have access to nutrient-rich foods. I know with Iron Earth in my garden they will get better, tastier, healthier food.

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